

Claims

1. A vacuum cleaning head comprising a housing, an agitator for agitating a floor surface which is rotatably mounted in the housing, an air turbine for driving the agitator, an air inlet for admitting air to the turbine, and a control for preventing rotation of, or reducing the speed of rotation of, the agitator, wherein the control is responsive to the speed of rotation of the turbine, or flow of air to or through the turbine.
2. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 1, wherein the control is movable between an open position, in which it admits air to the turbine, and a closed position in which it prevents air from reaching the turbine.
3. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 2, wherein the control is biased into the open position.
4. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the control is also movable into the inoperable position by a user.
5. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the control comprises a movable part having an interior volume which communicates with the main airflow path to the turbine, the movable part being responsive to a pressure difference between the interior volume and ambient air.
6. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 5, wherein the interior volume of the movable part communicates with the main airflow path to the turbine via a restricted airflow path.
7. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 6, wherein the restricted airflow path comprises an apertured plate.

8. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of claims 5 to 7, further comprising means for drawing air from the interior volume of the movable part.

9. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 8, wherein the drawing means comprises a second turbine.

10. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 9, wherein the second turbine forms part of the rear face of the turbine.

11. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 10, wherein the second turbine comprises depressions and ribs on the rear face of the turbine.

12. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 8, wherein the drawing means comprises a venturi in the airflow path upstream or downstream of the turbine, the interior volume of the movable part communicating with the venturi.

13. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of claims 5 to 12, further comprising a valve for admitting air into the interior of the movable part whereby to reopen the air inlet.

14. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of claims 2 to 13, further comprising a seal for sealing the inlet in the closed position.

15. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of claims 2 to 14, further comprising a valve for admitting air to the cleaning head whereby to reopen the air inlet.

16. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 15, wherein the valve admits air to a region downstream of the turbine.

17. A vacuum cleaning head according to claim 16, wherein the valve is positioned on the opposite side of the housing to the control.

5 18. A vacuum cleaning head according to any one of the preceding claims wherein there are a plurality of restricting devices arranged across the discharge outlet.

19. A vacuum cleaner incorporating a vacuum cleaning head according to any one of the preceding claims.

10 20. A vacuum cleaning head or a vacuum cleaner substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.